

Serial No. 10/531,978

Docket No. P-0752

Amendment dated May 26, 2009

Reply to Office Action of February 27, 2009

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1 and 3-26 are pending. By this Amendment, claims 1, 3, 5, 7, 20, and 22 are amended, claim 2 is canceled without prejudice or disclaimer, and claim 26 is added. No new matter is added. Support for claims can be found throughout the specification, including the original claims, and the drawings. Reconsideration in view of the above amendments and following remarks is respectfully requested.

Entry of the amended claims is proper under 37 C.F.R. §1.116 since the amendments: (1) place the application in condition for allowance for the reasons discussed herein; (2) do not raise any new issues requiring further search and/or consideration since the amendments amplify issues previously discussed throughout prosecution without incorporating additional subject matter; (3) satisfy a requirement of form asserted in the previous Office Action; and/or (4) place the application in better form for appeal, if necessary. Entry is thus requested.

The Examiner is thanked for the indication that claims 2-19 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the features of the base claim and any intervening claims. The allowable features of claim 2 have been added to independent claim 1, and claim 2 has been canceled. Accordingly, claim 1 should be in condition for allowance, along with claims 3-6 and 25, which depend therefrom. Claim 7 has been rewritten in independent form. Thus, claim 7 should be in condition for allowance, along with claims 8-24 and 26, which depend therefrom.

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The Office Action rejected claims 1 and 25 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Nagata et al. (hereinafter “Nagata”), U.S. Patent No. 5,918,480, in view of Kronenberger et al. (hereinafter “Kronenberger”), U.S. Patent No. 4,013,434; claims 20 and 21 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Nagata in view of Kronenberger, and further in view of Kim, U.S. Patent No. 6,367,276 B1; and claims 22-24 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Nagata in view of Kronenberger, and further in view of Chang, U.S. Patent No. 6,070, 419. These rejections are moot in view of the amendments discussed above.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. Favorable consideration and prompt allowance are earnestly solicited.

If the Examiner believes that any additional changes would place the application in better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned attorney, at the telephone number listed below.

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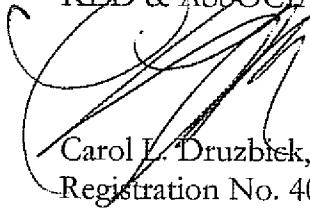
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To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 is hereby made. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this, concurrent and future replies, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account 16-0607 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,
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Date: May 26, 2009

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